

App. No. 09/501,540
Amendment dated October 14, 2003
Response to Office action date July 16, 2003
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Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the first paragraph on page 7 with the paragraph below. Deletions are shown using a strike-out font and insertions are underlined.

FIGS. 2 and 3 show the steps involved in a preferred embodiment of the present invention, and FIG. 4 shows some of the hardware and software used in those steps. A student 10 uses a student computer 26, such as an IBM compatible or a Macintosh personal computer, to request over computer network 14, preferably the Internet, an electronic application form from servicer 18. Servicer 18 operates one or more server computers 28, such as Sun Solaris UltraSparc Servers, for carrying out the invention. Server computer 28 executes Internet communications software 32 software, such as Apache HTTPD Server from The Apache Group, ~~www.apache.org~~[www.apache.org], to communicate over the Internet. Server computers 28 also executes, preferably behind a firewall, forms software 34, such as the Universal Forms Engine described in U.S. Pat. Appl. No. 09/325,533, for generating and processing application forms. Server computer 28 also executes facsimile transmission and receiving software 38, such as Hylafax™ available from hylafax.org, and image recognition software 40, such as OCR Shop software available from Vividata, Inc. for sending and receiving facsimiles and for converting facsimile images into text. Server 28 includes data storage 42 for storing information used in carrying out the invention. Skilled persons will understand that, although server 28 is depicted as a single computer, separate computers are preferably used for Internet communications, facsimile communications, and for application execution. The software operating on the various computers communicate with each other using standard protocols such as CGI or Apache API.